



First United  
Methodist  
Church

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## United Methodist News

February 2016

### Change A Child's Story: Give Books, Give Time

One million books and a million hours of reading with children – that's the goal of Iowa United Methodists in the next year and a half in an initiative called, "Change a Child's Story".

The academic and economic futures of almost 90,000 young Iowans are at risk.

- In 2012, roughly 1 in 4 Iowa fourth-graders scored below a proficient level on the state reading test. Research indicates that a quarter of kids who are behind in reading by the 4<sup>th</sup> grade will eventually drop out of school, making them more likely to experience other hardships, including jail time.
- 55% of Iowa children under age six whose low-income parents don't have a high school diploma.
- 86% of children with parents who didn't graduate from high school live in low-income families.
- 61% of children in poverty don't have children's books at home.

Sadly, Iowa's kids are not all developing the reading skills they need for success.

Bishop Trimble is challenging every UMC church in Iowa to get involved in Change a Child's Story. **Our church has accepted the challenge to be a part of this exciting project!!**

**Our church's goal is to donate 1,000 books and 500 hours of time reading to children by July 2017.** A donation box for NEW and GENTLY USED books for children and youth is in the Gathering Place. We've already given books to the Little Friends Preschoolers at Christmas. **Our next goal is to give books to Backpack Buddies before Spring Break.**

**Pick up an easy-to-complete, reading log to track your reading time.** Reading to your kids and grandchildren can be included on your reading log, though you are encouraged to stretch yourself and find other kids in our community would benefit from having a reading buddy. (We'll allow you to include all the time you've read with kids since the beginning of the current school year— as you are able to remember!) We are in the process of developing a list of places volunteers are needed to read to kids or listen to the kids' read.

**YOU are encouraged to be a part of this life-changing initiative!** If you have questions, contact anyone on the task force: Diane Wallick, Sherry Willey, Kathy Houstman, Mary Jo Heil, Ryan Stonebraker, Bobbie Lieser, Jane Moen and Pastor Paul.



## February Events

- Feb. 7 — Super Bowl Party
- Feb. 8—Fat Tuesday Food Prep 6:30pm
- Feb. 9 — Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Feb. 10 — Ash Wednesday Service 7:15 pm
- Feb. 13 — Shared Blessings
- Feb. 14 — KFC  
Dominoes
- Feb. 15 — Grief Group
- Feb. 17 — Newsletter Articles Due  
Abigail Circle
- Feb. 24 — Meeting of the Holy Folders
- Feb. 25 — Priscilla Circle
- Feb. 27 — Shared Blessings

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

—John 15:12-13



*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*



WHY SMALL GROUPS?? The item below is from 13 centuries ago, but it carries a message and a lesson for us, today...

St. Francis of Assisi (d. 1226) knew that he was greatly adored. He was tempted to believe the compliments so often given to him. It was heady stuff. But Francis found a way to handle such praise. When he felt his ego swelling from the adoration of the people, he would ask a fellow monk to sit down with him and tell him of faults he needed to work on.

Are we wiser or more discerning than St. Francis of Assisi? We'd each like to think so, but in fact, NO. We need people who are sufficiently loving to tell us when we err or when we have some area of personality, spirit or habit that needs to be hammered to more closely reflect the person of Christ.

LENT is a great time: 1) for GIGs and other groups to make invitations to those who are not yet actively growing their faith in the context of your class; 2) for individuals to jump into a GIG, class or group or to invite friends (or others without a group!) to form your own. Contact Melinda Stonebraker or Pastor Paul if you're ready to grow!

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The following prayer is by Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, written shortly before his 1980 assassination. So far this month it has stayed in front of my eyes, on my mind, and in my own prayers. Perhaps there will be a word, a line, a thought that helps you move forward, to do the next thing, even though you know it is beyond your scope to bring it to "completion."

*"It helps now and then, to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.*

*"We plant the seeds that one day will grow; We lay foundations that will need further development.*

*"We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning . . . an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*"We may never see the end results," Romero concluded, "but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen."*

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Use the church Mission and Vision statements in your devotional times. When you've read a passage of scripture and considered it, then prayerfully read the Vision statement or the Mission statement and ask, "What now, God, would you like me to do for your Kingdom?"

the MISSION of Tipton First UMC:

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The VISION of Tipton First UMC:

Tipton 1st UMC provides value to people in their journey of faith by:

- meaningful corporate worship;
- continual growth through small group and personal challenge;
- and mission by service in the church and the community.

Our people will be Deeply Rooted, Branching Out, and Bearing Fruit.

Pastor Paul

# Missions

## 2015 Missions Report

Thank you for so generously giving to Missions projects and making this church, by your prayers, participation and giving, a church that reaches well beyond these walls to bring glory to Jesus Christ and his love to many people. The Missions team

anticipates that **our church will be recognized as a 3<sup>rd</sup> mile Rainbow Covenant Church for the 9th year in a row!**

The Rainbow Covenant seeks to help churches develop an intentional, well-balanced approach to involvement in missions close to home, in the U.S. and globally. To be recognized as a 3rd mile Rainbow Covenant Church, a church must first fully pay their apportionments AND must fully support projects in every rainbow mission category. Here's summary of what the miles and colors of the Rainbow Covenant mean and how we did in 2015:

### First Mile:

To be a first-mile church simply means that apportionments are paid in full at the end of the year. Our appointments of \$32,373 with \$938 in district askings were paid in full for 2015!

### Second Mile:

Here's where we get into the colors of the rainbow. Our rainbow has seven colors, each representing a mission category. A

second mile church will give \$6 per member to world hunger (green) and \$1 per member to the other color categories. Here's how our numbers added up by the end of 2015:

<i>Color</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>\$ Goal</i>	<i>\$ Given</i>
<b>Red</b>	<b>International Mission</b>	<b>\$469</b>	<b>\$841.88</b>
	Church World Service – Blankets, Haiti Solar Oven Project, Hispanic/Latino Ministries, Ingathering – Money for INP Kits		
<b>Orange</b>	<b>United States Mission</b>	<b>\$469</b>	<b>\$1,680.94</b>
	Tree of Life Ministry, Disaster Response – US, Hispanic/Latino Ministries, Ronald McDonald House of Charities		
<b>Yellow</b>	<b>UMCOR</b>	<b>\$469</b>	<b>\$987.42</b>
	One Great Hour of Sharing, UMCOR Disaster Response-International, Ingathering-Money for UMCOR kits		
<b>Green</b>	<b>World Hunger &amp; Poverty Relief</b>	<b>\$2,814</b>	<b>\$6,057</b>
	Ingathering – In kind & Quilt, Shared Blessings Community Meals		
<b>Blue</b>	<b>Iowa UMC Projects</b>	<b>\$469</b>	<b>\$1,513.64</b>
	Cedar Rapids Matthew 25 Ministry Hub, Mission of Hope, Neighbor Helping Neighbor		
<b>Indigo</b>	<b>Parish Development</b>	<b>\$469</b>	<b>\$512.88</b>
	United Methodist Builders, Women at the Well, Trinity UMC-Des Moines, Hispanic/Latino Ministries		
<b>Purple</b>	<b>Special Offerings</b>	<b>\$469</b>	<b>\$1,697.72</b>
	Easter Pool Offering goes to Human Relations Day, Native American Awareness Sunday, Peace With Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, United Methodist Student Day, Golden Cross Sunday, Rural Life Sunday, Christian Education Sunday, Disability Awareness Sunday		

**Total 2<sup>nd</sup> mile giving was \$13,291.48.**

### Third Mile:

Also called “over the rainbow” means a church has given an additional \$1 per member to local and institutional giving and an additional \$2 per member for missionary support. Here's a list of our contributions in 2015:

<b>Missionary Support</b>	<b>\$938</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
Support of Mark Stransky at Project Crossroads in Marion, VA		
<b>Local &amp; Institutional</b>	<b>\$469</b>	<b>\$3,366</b>
Hardacre Community Garden, Benevolence fund, Food Pantry, Angel Tree families		

**Total 3<sup>rd</sup> mile giving was \$4,366**

**Our total amount for missions giving (including apportionments) was \$50,968.48.** These figures only account for the financial giving of First UMC. We also support many mission and ministries with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and our witness. Thank you to all who volunteer time to show Christ to the community and world. May God bless all that's been given to help so many in need. May God richly bless you as well. Thank you.

(Missions Continued)

## Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper – February 9

Stop by the church for pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, applesauce and juice or coffee on Tuesday, February 9 anytime between 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken and any profits will support mission projects. The community is invited - bring your family & friends!

If you would like to donate food or help with set-up, cooking, serving or clean-up for the pancake supper, additional help is needed. Sign up on the registration insert in the Sunday bulletin or contact the church office. Thanks!



## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Our church is collecting the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering on February 21**. Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in this special offering that supports United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) vital work. UMCOR provides immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do. Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today.

In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes and help families recover, communities rebuild and hope to be stored.

Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps us keep our promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project, not on home office costs. Please join United Methodists world-wide by making a special offering to support UMCOR's humanitarian aid. Please give generously on February 21 or anytime this month using the envelope in this newsletter! For those of you who receive the newsletter electronically, extra envelopes will be at the back of the sanctuary OR just put "OGHS" in the memo line of a check to the church.

## Shared Blessings Food Prep

To make Shared Blessings go more smoothly, it's helpful to have some of the food prepared ahead of time. We've been doing some of the food prep on the weekdays prior to the meal. Our next "food prep" day is Monday, February 15 at 10:00 a.m. Contact Renee Mente at 886-3239 to let her know you can help or just show up! If you can't help that day, but are willing to help with food prep for Shared Blessings, contact Renee.

## Backpack Buddies

Our church is responsible for packing the backpacks for the Backpack Buddies program at Trinity Lutheran Church in February. All the supplies will be furnished – we just need 3-4 people to fill the backpacks on Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 4:00 p.m. Sign up through the registration insert in the Sunday bulletin or contact the church office.

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Jesus smiles when he sees my ministry.  
I pass on faith and hope to a future adult.  
I help children find their voice.  
I change the world—one child at a time.  
As I encourage a child's faith  
...I encourage my own.  
I get to watch children become  
Friends and followers of Jesus.  
Jesus is the author and finisher  
of my faith  
...and my ministry.

Kid's fingerprints leave marks on  
my heart.  
Children are counting on me.  
If not me, then who?



### Kids for Christ

Sunday, February 14th  
2:30 to 4:30  
All ages are welcome!

## Usher Coordinators

We still need a few usher coordinators. If you are willing to find people to serve as ushers, please contact Melinda Stonebraker or the church office. The months of March, May, July, August, October, and December still need coordinators. Coordinators may serve as ushers but it isn't required. Thank you!

## Looking for Hosts

Neighbors and Disciples will begin organizing intergenerational fellowship evenings soon and we need some people to serve as hosts. Specifics aren't worked out yet, but for now, here's the loose plan: people will sign up to participate in the fellowship. Then on Sunday evenings, probably 6:00-7:30 once per month, we will assign people to go to a host house for fellowship. Hosting is simple: provide a space for people to gather, popcorn, and a simple beverage. If you'd like to be a host, please contact the church office or Melinda Stonebraker.



## Join a study for Lent

This Lent, Neighbors & Disciples encourages individuals, GIGs, and other groups to explore the book *40 Days of Decrease: A Different Kind of Hunger. A Different Kind of Fast.* by Alicia Britt Chole. This book uniquely combines daily devotional readings including scripture and journaling with academic and historical information about Lent plus daily challenges to fast surprising things. Because of this breadth, we believe it will offer a challenge to each of us. New groups will be forming beginning February 10 for this Lenten study. Contact the church office or Melinda Stonebraker to participate or order a book.



**Your Creative Worship Team** wanted to give some new appearance and texture to the worship center. They worked diligently to make the best use of resources while fulfilling their desire for fresh paraments. Perhaps you've noticed the results draping the Table. They worked with the Memorial Committee and have used funds given in memory of Edie Ford, Thelma Hamiel and Esther Witmer. Some General Budget Funds from the Creative Worship Work Area were also applied toward the purchase.

## Discipleship Pathway - Scripture Reflection

In January we looked at Prayer and Meditation. This month we will look at Scripture Reflection. Both are related to being "Deeply Rooted" from our church's vision statement.

Recently I've spent some time wondering what Jesus was doing between his birth and his baptism by John. The Bible is pretty quiet about those nearly thirty years. Matthew 2 tells us Joseph took the family to Egypt after the wisemen's warning, and then after Herod's death they moved to Nazareth. Luke 2 has the story about Jesus accidentally being left behind at the temple when he was twelve (parents, breathe a sigh of relief as you note that Mary and Joseph lost their kid once too). Luke also tells us that his parents went to Jerusalem for Passover every year, and Jesus went too when he was old enough, indicating that they were faithful Jews. Luke 2 ends with this sentence: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." So, while we don't know what Jesus was up to all those years, we do know what those years produced: wisdom and favor. Jesus had amazing understanding at a young age (Luke 2:47) and as he grew his wisdom increased. This wisdom is evident in the stories of the Gospels. He knew the Jewish texts and understood what they meant. It's not a stretch, then, to say that one way he gained wisdom is through the study of the scriptures. Likewise, we can gain wisdom through the study of scriptures. Of course Jesus was divine as well as human, so that seems to be an advantage for him. However, because of God's spirit living in us, we too can study scripture and listen to the Holy Spirit to understand. Scripture reflection isn't something just for spiritual elites (whoever they are). Scripture reflection is for everyone regardless of age, intellect, or background.

*Suggestions to consider.* There are several ways to grow in Scripture Reflection, not limited to these lists: pick up the Bible and start reading one of the Gospels, read the scriptures that are listed daily in The Upper Room, use a Bible app and pick a reading plan based on a topic or one of the books of the Bible, join a GIG or Lenten study for discussion. If you've already been reading scripture, take some steps to increase your reflection to better listen to the Holy Spirit: practice some specific methods (Lectio Divina and SOAPY are outlined in [A Disciple's Path](#)), begin to journal, discern how the scripture lesson should affect your actions and then respond.

-Melinda Stonebraker

**General Budget** expenditures (In each of the years below, all bills were paid; maybe not timely, but paid.)

2010 General Budget Expenses	\$177,718.00	
2011 General Budget Expenses	\$170,230.89	
2012 General Budget Expenses	\$159,800.10	(88% of the \$181,439 budget)
2013 General Budget Expenses	\$172,896.53	(94% of the \$183,931 budget)
2014 General Budget Expenses	\$180,335.72	(94% of the \$191,814 budget)
2015 General Budget Expenses	\$183,142.73	(92.5% of the \$197,970 budget)

It cannot be the goal of any faith community to see how frugal it can be... it must be a goal to see how **faithful** and **fruitful** we can be. Evidenced above, the leadership of 1<sup>st</sup> UMC aims to do ministry as efficiently as possible. The fruitfulness is left to each and every one of us. All financial records are 'open.' Monthly spreadsheets of the General Budget are posted in the Gathering Place and a re-cap is in the newsletter; weekly offering receipts are included in the Sunday program.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

March is the one time/year the Leadership Council considers proposals for the use of income from the 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Endowment Fund. Please submit any proposals to the church office before March 8!! There are three designated categories from which funds may be requested:

- A. Missions/People projects: local, district, conference, national, international
- B. Maintenance/Trustees: major repairs, major improvements, special objects or furnishings
- C. Ministry/Program Development: education, communication, evangelism, worship...

Guidelines state that income from Endowments may never go toward on-going, budgeted expenses of the church. Furthermore, the founding document states:

*The existence of this Endowment Fund must in no way reduce the responsible current support and involvement of the church members.*

Proposals may come from groups, committees or individuals, though it's preferred they come from a group or committee.

A reminder: YOU can add to the corpus of the 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Endowment Fund!! Talk to your financial planner; or contact Brian Boedeker, Bob Young or Vicki Daniel, members of the Endowment Committee.



## Field Outreach Ministers of the Iowa Annual Conference

Posted Nov. 30, 2015

Local church leaders gathered on the campus of [Morningside College](#) recently to explore how every congregation is uniquely created by God for its mission in the world. Bryan Rose presented the basic principles of a book entitled [Church Unique](#), which is a new resource being utilized with the [Healthy Church Initiative](#) (HCI) across the Iowa Conference.

The basic assumption of the book is that "God is up to something both cosmically significant and locally specific" in the lives of each of our churches. It inspires and equips congregations and their leaders to discern, develop, and deliver on a clear, compelling, and shared picture of where God is leading them.

Ryan Christenson, the Field Outreach Minister for the Northwest District, helped to coordinate the training event, which was held on November 16-17. He and his seven colleagues work with local churches to develop partnerships among laity and clergy through processes such as HCI to strengthen our ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

[Field Outreach Ministers](#) serve with a Conference Superintendent and an Administrative Assistant in each of eight districts across the state. The total investment in 2016 related to these district ministry teams is \$3.1 million, which represents about 25% of conference apportionments contributed by the local churches of Iowa. Our Field Outreach Minister is Rev. Jill Sanders. We've been blessed by her guidance in huge and inspiring ways! Our apportionments make her service possible.

## Caring Ministries

Through Caring Ministries, you sent out a total of 130+ birthday, anniversary, sympathy and anniversary of loss cards, visited 45-55 people who don't get out and about much at Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween & Christmas, and offered support through prayer shawls and teddy bears, etc.

As a church, we can always do more to show our support and love for one another. Caring Ministries only supplements what YOU already do. Please continue to reach out, develop relationships and show you care with your friends, neighbors and strangers.

Mark your calendars for the Super Bowl appetizer party (right after worship)! Hope you can join us on February 7th!

### Valentine Visits

The Caring Ministries team put together Valentine care packages for those who don't get out and about much anymore. On Sunday, January 30, please stop by the dining room to pick up a few care packages. The packages just need to be delivered anytime before Valentine's Day, February 14, so you can pick a time that works for you to do the visits. We have 45-55 people who receive care packages so many helpers are needed. Those who are "homebound" appreciate the visits AND YOU will be blessed as well!



### Super Bowl Appetizer Party February 7

We're trying something new this year! We'll be having APPETIZERS as part of our kick-off to the Super Bowl right after worship in the Gathering Place. A freewill offering will be taken to support Caring Ministries!



### WALK TO EMMAUS

A Free Gift for Yourself and Those You Care About



If you want more information you may do an internet search, go to <http://www.cedarrapidsemmaus.org>

or talk to Pastor Paul.

## Member News

**Deaths:** May God's peace be with families and friends of...

**Donna Marquett**, who died January 19, 2016. Many of you have taken the opportunity to incarnate God's love for Donna over the years. Christ be praised.

**Betty Curtis**, mother of Deanna Licht. We just recently started to reach out to Betty when she moved from her IC apartment to Mechanicsville. What a delight she was!

**Transitions:**

**Tyler Baird**, with his wife **Kendra**, have begun to worship at the Nichols UMC and are taking action to transfer his membership to that church. Great way to start their life together!

**Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who provided food and service for the luncheon after the funeral. Leanne Boots; Family of Charles Linn

Dear UMC & LFP,

Thank you for my prayer bear, Christmas book and wooden nativity scene. I love my bear because he is so soft. I named him Alex. Thank you for thinking of me while I was in the hospital. I feel much better now. I like to read my book and play with my nativity scene. I put it in my room. It is pretty cool! Colton

*[Colton is one of the LFP students. He was hospitalized just before Christmas; in fact, he missed his class Christmas Program and party. The "prayer bears" are available to give to youngsters who might benefit from this sign of love and encouragement. pff]*

Each LFP Student received gifts from the church. A big "Thank You" to all who made it possible:

The Stonebraker family gave each child an easy-reader book of the birth of Jesus.

Each child also received eight pieces of the wooden nativity set given to children of the church. These were cut out by Bob Young and Fidel Barela.

**FOUND January 24:**

Lady's ring with three hearts, each likely inlaid with a birthstone. Inquire at the office.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries (Members and Constituents)

- 1 – Sarah Leff, Dylan Mente, Vivian Wiskus, Betty & Gary Kline, Todd & Hannah Smith
- 4 – Teri Baird, Becky Donohoe, Arlo & Barbara Petersen
- 5 – Sandy Corbett, Dick Paul, Samantha Wulf
- 6 – Diana Mueller
- 7 – Bev Ehresman
- 8 – Stephanie Coppess, Sean Driscoll, Penny Webb, Skylar Winekauf-Schmidt
- 9 – Charles Donohoe, Lisa Gallagher, Traci Ormsby, Christopher & Joyce Slach
- 10 – Eric Clark
- 11 – Lonnie Nebergall, Bert Wagaman, Jacob & Amanda Paul
- 12 – Shane Boeve, Tenley Bormann
- 14 – Hadley Calonder, Ron Chambliss, Nathan Smith, Brandon Stark, Wayne & Ann Neville, Robert & Linda Wood
- 15 – Kerilynn Battey, Larry Houstman
- 16 – Nicki Aikman, Bob & Ginny Cummins
- 17 – Bailey Donohoe
- 18 – Kolton Mente
- 20 – Daisy Wingert, Sheryl Yerington
- 21 – Ken McKay, Connie Paul, Ron & Nancy Burroughs
- 22 – Alex Anderson
- 23 – Amanda Amosson, Glenn L. Eaton, James Gardner, Ronald Wingert, Ted & Deanna Licht
- 24 – Kody Wallick
- 25 – JoAnn Brennan, Jerry Elijah, Randy Nau, Arlo Petersen
- 26 – Jaclynne Driscoll, Hudson Wulf
- 27 – Brad Kirkpatrick
- 28 – Matthew Griebel, Rick Rouse, Dee Wallace
- 29 – Brock Huston

(Please contact the church office for additions and/or corrections.)

*Let all that you do  
be done in Love*

1 Corinthians 16:14

## Prayers

### PRAYERS

#### Hospitalized/Procedures:

Vivian Wiskus @ Mercy-IC

**Healing:** Joe Cheshareck (G.Fleming's bro-in-law,) Darlene (Marjorie Stonerook's sister), Jerry Ferguson, Marvin Ford, Donna Gault, Arlene Hein, Larry Hostler, Linda Huff, Rex Idlewine, Ed Ketelsen, Ron Martin, Mark McKay (Ken's bro), Katherine Moen (Jane's mom), Warren Nielson (L&K Houstman's bro-in-law), Ray Penningroth (M. Stonerook's bro); Kiaya Rickard-Urban; Jim Shontz, Ray Steinberg, Heather Strefling, Gary Taylor, Jason Walter, and others under care or treatment.

#### Prayers for those in Life Transitions:

Family & friends of Donna Marquett; died 1/18; Aaron/Jennifer Comstock family & the myriad decisions in this 'wilderness' following the house fire. Couples/Families searching for the way forward. Persons & families of incarceration; Persons in employment limbo; Families struggling with the impact of drug and alcohol abuse or other addiction. Persons uprooted due to "natural" and/or "human" disaster; and those who are called to help. Persons/people persecuted for religious convictions.

**In Treatment:** Jean (Jayne Erickson's sis), Gary Kline, Linda (Kay Miller's sis)

**Hospice/Palliative Care:** Elmer Flory, Mabel Lamp, Henry Wiskus

**Armed Services:** Thomas Brown (Seydel's son-in-law), Sean Hannes, Kyle Marchik, Corey Ormsby

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All at the First United Methodist Church,  
THANK YOU all for your continued support through the last semester. I enjoy getting your packages and letters. I hope the new year treats you all well. Thank you again. Josh Eiler

*(Josh is a first-year student at Drake University in DesMoines and receives the College Connections materials. Thank you who make this ministry possible!! Your donations at the "College Connections" noon meal September 13, 2015 is one source of funds.*

## Drake University Wesley Foundation

Nineteen first-year students at Drake University have been exploring faith this fall with Ted Lyddon Hatten, an artist who also serves at the director of the Wesley Foundation there. Guests can learn more about their conversations by viewing *Seeing ~ Believing*: an exhibition of visual manifestations of belief. The display is now open through December 17th at the Wesley House Gallery, 2718 University, Des Moines, Iowa.

We “have been wrestling with weighty questions about the nature of belief and the limitations of seeing,” he explained. “Over the course of the semester, we have looked at the difference between sacred and profane, between sight and blindness, between art and propaganda. We have discovered that some things are easier to believe if they are not seen, while others are impossible to believe unless they are seen.”

The Wesley Foundation at Drake University is one of several United Methodist campus ministries in Iowa. Each Wesley Foundation serves as an extension of our local churches as students are experiencing one of the most significant times of faith development in their lives.

**Apportionment dollars** from the United Methodist churches of Iowa [**that’s 1st UMC of Tipton!**] will provide \$111,768 to support the Wesley Foundation ministries at Drake University in 2016



### “Leaving A Legacy”

Your will is your last opportunity to witness on earth to your religious beliefs, whatever they may be. You don’t need a spectacular ‘wonder of the world’ like Carnegie libraries in order for your will to speak for your faith or values. Some people consider a tithe (10%) of their estate. Whatever designation you choose, your gift will have the potential to communicate to others who may not ever have given thought of God, grace or even eternity.

1st United Methodist of Tipton is fortunate to have witnesses like H. E. Horn, Carroll Mitchell and Don & Miriam Williams. As a witness to their faith, and concern for you and me, they were able to leave significant funds on which we are privileged to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

But it does not require huge amounts to make a difference. In fact, any amount at any time can be added to the corpus of the 1st UMC-Tipton endowment account.

Last year, we were humbled to receive a bequest from the estate of Eddie Ford. No more unassuming person could be found. Her life was simple, fulfilling and sacrificial. Her death, as it turned out, was inspirational.



Drawing on her example, the Leadership Council decided to utilize her be-

quest of \$31,227 as seed money to challenge us to consider anew those who have been before us and those who will follow.

A team designated by Leadership Council, of Bob Young (when he’s here ), Dusty Johnson, Cassandra Hembry and Jane Moen have put together a plan, called “LEAVING A LEGACY.” Leadership Council embraced a \$100,00 goal for that campaign, starting with Edie’s \$31,227.

Included with this newsletter (or attached, for you who read this on the screen) or on the back table of the worship center or from the church office, are commitment forms for you to use in making your desires known. Especially for this campaign, we

are inviting people to consider making your gift **in honor of** or **in memory of** someone who has made a difference in your life. We will have footprints marking those lives, one for “in honor of” and the other saying “in memory of.”

Future newsletters will give some of the ways these funds may be utilized to take the ministries of this church into the future, so we might

**LEAVE A LEGACY !!**

## February Sunday Servants

## Presence & Gifts from Dec.

### Liturgists Twyla Hein - Coordinator

14 – Gail Fleming  
21 – Mindy Williams  
28 – Jen Johnson

### Power Point Becky Young - Coordinator

7 – Brian Heil  
14 – Maggie Borman (create), Jessie Leiser (run)  
21 – Landon Hill  
28 – Comstock Family

### Fellowship Coffee Barb R. & Dixie M.-Coordinator

7 – Caring Ministries  
14 – Richard & Karen Zobel  
21 – J & Roberta Gesling  
28 – Paul Frederiksen & Jane Moen, Twyla Hein & Kim Cross

### Greeters Becky Young - Coordinator

7 – Rhonda Waugh & Pam Spear  
14 – Shumaker Family  
21 – Tom & Mary Ehresman  
28 – Charette Family

### Nursery Office - Coordinator

7 – Jen Johnson  
14 – Karen Anderson  
21 –  
28 – Kris Clark

### Children's Lesson Office - Coordinator

14 –Dusty Johnson  
21 –Gail Fleming  
28 – Brian Heil

### Ushers Melinda Stonebraker - Coordinator

7 – 28 Abby Cummins VanScoy & Elliot Cummins,  
Melissa Roth & Bailey Roth

### Communion Stewards Donna Gault - Coordinator

7 – Karen Strefling

### Acolytes Kim Walter - Coordinator

7 – Avary & Braydon Calonder  
14 – Owen Steinman & Gwen VanScoy  
21 – Ava Boldt & Lea Stonebraker  
28 – Colbie Schultz & Alicia Walter

**Worship Attendance:** 6–109, 13–140, 20–239,  
24–3:30 pm service 120, 10:00 pm service 84, 27–62  
Average: 138

Average for Christmas Eve: 102

**Sunday School Attendance:** 6–74, 13–93, 20–100

Average: 89

**General Fund: \$21594.35**, Upper Room \$2.00,  
Gathering Place Fireplace \$3000.00, Apportionments  
\$1360.00, Leaving a Legacy \$500.00, Shared  
Blessings \$547.27, LFP Contribution \$300.00, LFP  
Salary \$886.32, Missions \$10.00, UMC T-Shirts  
\$14.00, Copper Kettle \$182.52, Christmas Offering  
\$1962.00, Thanksgiving Offering \$15.00, Angel Tree  
\$100.00, **Grand Total \$30,476.46**

## Worship in February

**Feb. 7** (a.k.a. “Super Bowl” Sunday)  
Communion followed by ‘Game snacks’

**Theme** “The Word of God”

**Music:** Keyboards and Chancel Choir

**Feb. 10** **Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7:15 pm**

**Feb. 14** 1st Sunday of Lent

**Scripture:** Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

**Music:** Christian Chaos, Choir Kids

**Feb. 21** 2nd Sunday of Lent

**Scripture:** Genesis 15, Luke 13:31-35

**Music:** Chancel Choir, Keyboards

**Feb. 28** 3rd Sunday of Lent

**Scripture:** I Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

**Music:** Christian Chaos, Choir Kids

*I believe God embedded the  
miraculous in the ordinary,  
and it is our task to discover  
it and celebrate it.*

-Kent Nerburn, author

## February Calendar



### Monday, February 1

6:45 pm Missions meeting

### Wednesday, February 3

1:00 pm GIG

5:00 pm GIG Leaders Meeting

5:30 pm Youth Group

6:00 pm GIG

6:30 pm GIG

7:00 pm Choir Practice

### Thursday, February 4

10:00 am GIG

6:30 pm Financial Peace

### Friday, February 5

8 am Ministerial Assoc. prayers

### Sunday, February 7

8:30 am Choir Kids

9:00 am GIG

9:00 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

11:35 am Super Bowl

Appetizer Party

3:30 pm Junior Lego League

### Monday, February 8

6:30 pm Fat Tuesday Food Prep

### Tuesday, February 9

4:00 pm Communion @ Prairie Hills

5:30-7:00 pm Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

### Wednesday, February 10

Ash Wednesday

1:00 pm GIG

1:30 pm Bible Study

6:00 pm GIG

6:30 pm GIG

7:15 pm Ash Wed. Service

### Thursday, February 11

9:30 am Communion @ Cedar Manor

10:00 am GIG

6:30 pm Financial Peace

6:30 pm Chaos Practice

### Saturday, February 13

11:00 am Shared Blessings

### Sunday, February 14

8:30 am Choir Kids

9:00 am GIG

9:00 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

2:30 pm KFC

6:00 pm Dominoes

### Monday, February 15

10:00 am Shared Blessings Food Prep

4:30 pm Grief Group

6:30 pm Chaos Practice

### Wednesday, February 17

Newsletter Articles Due

1:00 pm GIG

6:00 pm GIG

6:30 pm GIG

7:00 pm Choir Practice

8:00 pm Abigail Circle

### Thursday, February 18

All Day: Pastor @Peer Ministry

10:00 am GIG

12:00 pm TMA

6:30 pm Girls Scout Troop 5302

6:30 pm Trustees

6:30 pm Financial Peace

### Sunday, February 21

8:30 am Choir Kids

9:00 am GIG

9:00 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

### Tuesday, February 23

9:00 am Pastor @ Cluster

2:00 pm Prairie Hills Program

### Wednesday, February 24

8:00 am Meeting of the Holy Folders

1:00 pm GIG

1:30 pm Bible Study

6:00 pm GIG

6:30 pm GIG

7:00 pm Choir Practice

### Thursday, February 25

10:00 am GIG

6:30 pm Financial Peace

6:30 pm Chaos Practice

7:00 pm Priscilla Circle

### Saturday, February 27

11:00 am Shared Blessings

### Sunday, February 28

8:30 am Choir Kids

9:00 am GIG

9:00 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship

2:00 pm Pastor leaves for Working Retreat

### Monday, February 29

Pastor @ Work Retreat

6:30 pm Chaos

Practice



